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## BIG FLEET BEGINS CRUISE TO FAR WESTERN COAST

### Hampton Roads the Scene of a Most Spectacular and Impressive Sight When Ships Steamed Out.

### REVIEWED BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

### Commander in Chief of the Navy Arrived from Washington Early in the Morning and Held Reception with Officers After Which He Led the Line of Fighting Machines Nearly Out to the Capes—Scenes at Old Point When Ships Sailed.

(By Associated Press.)  
OLD POINT COMFORT, VA., Dec. 16.—Sixteen hard-hitting, steel belted, American battleships, gun arming and bury of girth, but sparkling white in their immaculate dressings of peace, sailed away today under the dazzling sun of a cloudless winter sky on their famous twin-sea expedition of 13,772 miles along foreign shores and changing climates to the west coast of the United States.

President Roosevelt, on the bridge of his cruiser-yacht, the Mayflower, personally led the magnificent four mile line of fighting vessels during the first stage of their journey.

From the anchorage ground in Hampton Roads to the Horseshoe Bend of Chesapeake Bay, his eagle crested flag of blue pointed the way to the navy's new home at the Golden Gate.

Then when the wide reaches of the sea were visible through the wide swung capes of Virginia, he turned aside and coming to an anchorage, reviewed the passing pageant.

The boom of saluting cannon marked the departure of the fleet—presenting to the people who watched, a spectacle they will never forget and to the world at large, the reality of the trimmest, most thoroughly equipped assemblage of first class battleships ever gathered in one command.

There was not a ship in the line old enough to have smelled powder at Manila or Santiago—stories written scarcely ten years ago in the history of nations. All are modern of design and armament.

The thrill of the beautiful marine picture was felt until the last wind-whirl of smoke was tossed on the horizon. The sailing of the fleet was preceded by a reception on the quarterdeck of the Mayflower, which shortly after 8 o'clock this morning, steamed into the center of the anchored fleet.

President Roosevelt warmly greeted the four rear admirals and the sixteen commanding officers of the fleet as they climbed up the starboard gangway of the yacht. He had a word of confidence and well wishing for all, but made no formal address.

The inspiring sight of the vessels gaily decorated at anchor and waiting the word to go, put the President in rare good spirits. While the Mayflower was coming into position and waiting for the reception to begin, the President paced rapidly up and down the deck, so as to obtain a view or the great double line from every possible vantage point.

"Did you ever see such a fleet?" "And such a day?" "Isn't it magnificent? Ought not we all feel proud?" exclaimed the President.

In the midst of the reception to the highest officers he sent for the coxswain of the Louisiana's launch and through him despatched a special message of greeting to that ship's crew. When the surprised and embarrassed coxswain, Seaman William Chandler, had been presented to Mrs. Roosevelt as well as to the President, and had again clambered into his launch, the President said to those about him:

surance that the ships of his command were ready for their trip to the other side of the hemisphere.

President Roosevelt acknowledged the salute with lifted hat and accepted the formal words of greeting as stiffly as they were uttered. Then, with the brief ceremony ended, he grasped Admiral Evans' hand and gave it the heartiest of shakes. The two conversed together informally for a moment or two until other arriving flag and commanding officers set the reception into full swing.

When Admiral Evans was about to take his leave and get the fleet under way the President followed him to the gangway and then called him aside for nearly five minutes of earnest consultation.

In parting with the officers of the fleet, President Roosevelt was wholly informal and to each had a cordial handshake, a grasp of the uniformed shoulder, and a hearty "good bye, old fellow, and good luck."

The President's Party.

President Roosevelt's party on the Mayflower included Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Ethel Roosevelt, Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Metcalf, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy and

## JURY COULDN'T AGREE

### Mrs. Edmonia Peebles Not Convicted of Murder of Her Husband

### ACCUSED NOT AT ALL WORRIED

### Was Highly Excited When Her Alleged Statement Was Read, But When Jury Came In She Was Apparently Indifferent.

(Special to The Daily Press.)  
BEDFORD CITY, VA., Dec. 16.—The 12 good men and true in whose hands lay the fate of Mrs. Edmonia Peebles, on trial for the murder of her husband, who she first shot and then beat his head with stones, tonight came into court and reported that they were unable to agree. The jury was immediately discharged and the sensational trial was at an end.

The jury is understood to have stood one for acquittal, seven for murder in the second degree and four for voluntary manslaughter.

The report of the jury followed a day of argument by attorneys, whose endeavors were listened to with the closest attention by the prisoner. This morning when the court read its instructions to the jury she was quiet until the court read her alleged statement to the effect that she had said she was going to kill her husband on his return from Lynchburg. Then she became excited. "It is not true," she cried. "I did not say it. It is a lie."

This she continued to repeat in spite of efforts to silence her and the court had to have her silenced. A big red apple was given Mrs. Peebles during the argument. She borrowed a knife from a spectator near her and leisurely quartered and peeled it. She then offered some of it to the gentlemen when she returned the knife, calmly eating the balance with seeming enjoyment.

Mrs. Peebles exhibited nothing more than ordinary interest when the jury was making its report.

Mrs. Newberry, Rear Admiral Brownson, chief of the bureau of navigation and Mrs. Brownson, Rear Admiral and Mr. Cowles, and Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Sims.

The naval despatch boat Dolphin, with a party of Congressmen on board, also participated in the review. The last good byes had been said, the last wishes of good luck had been uttered, suddenly the signal yards on the Connecticut flashed the message, "get under way immediately," following the motions of the flag-ship.

Orders followed from each bridge, they were conveyed by warning bells to engine rooms, through the musical notes of half a score of bugles. Dressing lines were hauled in and as they tumbled to the deck the ships were robbed of their gala attire.

With the departure of the fleet of fifteen, the Mayflower proceeded to get under way almost immediately, so as to take her place at the head of the formidable column and lead the way to the reviewing waters off Thimble Shoal Lighthouse, ten miles out in Chesapeake Bay.

As the Mayflower retreated down the warships' lanes, each vessel as she passed manned the rail with bluejackets, all of whom stood at attention.

The Connecticut, head of the column, and the other ships of the first division, the Kansas, the Vermont and the Louisiana, were the first to get their anchors up.

One by one each armor clad hoisted their position pennants to the forepeak, showing that they were ready to get under way, the flagships of each division subordinate to the first did not hoist their pennants until the last anchor chains of the immediate command were stowed. When at last all sixteen ships were in position, in single column and distance 400 yards apart, the engine room indicators far down in the depths of the steel protected decks, showed half speed ahead.

Reviewed by the President

The President's yacht was well down the bay when the battleship column began to move. Heaving to near the tail of the Horseshoe, the Mayflower again dropped anchor and stood by to review the Pacific bound parade. There was little time to wait before the wide girthed hull of the Connecticut, glimmering white, showed off the quarter rail with Admiral Evans on the afterbridge, high above the main deck, with the union jack at the stem and a spotless new American flag fluttering from the aft truck, the Connecticut presented a picture that fairly thrilled those who saw her.

The President lifted his hat and the spontaneous cheering was quickly taken up. The President's position on the Mayflower gave him an uninterrupted view. Abreast the presidential yacht the Connecticut began her series of salutes. Following in the wake of the Connecticut and saluting in their turn, with bands playing, drums ruffling and guns booming, the Vermont, the Kansas and the Louisiana steamed by the Mayflower. The four ships are as nearly alike as the naval architects and builders could make them. They constituted the first division, squadron of the fleet.

Four hundred yards astern of the Louisiana came the Georgia, flying the flag of Rear Admiral W. H. Emery and leading the four ships of the second division, first squadron. The details of salute with the passing of the second division were the same as those set by the Connecticut and followed by all the other ships as they came. After the Georgia came the New Jersey, the Rhode Island and the Virginia.

The passing of the Virginia completed the first squadron under the command of Rear Admiral Evans.

Next came the flagship of the second squadron, divided into the third and fourth divisions of the fleet of four ships each. The big Minnesota, with Rear Admiral Thomas on the bridge, led the squadron. Following her came the Ohio, the Missouri and the Maine.

The fourth class of battleships looking backward in naval history was found today in the Alabama and the Illinois, the leading ships in the fourth division, second squadron. Rear Admiral Sperry's flag flew at the main truck of the Alabama.

The fifth last class of ships represented in the parade of the Pacific bound fleet were the kersage and the Kentucky, the latter bringing up the rear of the line.

When the report of saluting cannon on the Kentucky had died away across the waters, the Connecticut, at the head of the column four miles away had almost reached the capes and the history making journey had begun in earnest.

Preparations Began Early.

The waiting fleet began early to welcome the President and later bid

(Continued on Third Page.)

## WHAT IS A UNION POTATO AND UNION BEET, ANYWAY?

### Questions That Confront the Chicago Federation of Labor—Answers Not Made.

(By Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—What is a union potato and what constitutes "unionism in a beet"—a plain, ordinary beet of the common garden variety—this is the question which confronted the Chicago Federation of Labor yesterday when Secretary Nockios read a communication to the effect that a union market here had been established for the purpose of supplying organized labor with all sorts of food. "How are we to know that we are getting a union potato or ham?" asked one delegate. "Will the potato bear the union label or will it carry a union working card? Of course, we want to unionize the earth, but if the potato is made under union conditions we have got to get an organizer equipped with wings in order to organize heaven and whoever turns on the water."

President Fitzpatrick ended the discussion by declaring that he did not know what a union potato might be or what virtues it might possess superior to a "scab" potato.

## MYSTERIOUS FIGHT AGAINST CHICAGO LIQUOR DEALERS

### Sluths Make General Raid on Sunday Sellers in Chicago Much to Surprise of People.

(By Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 16.—With the trials of the saloon keepers scheduled to be resumed today, the Sunday closing crusade took a mysterious turn yesterday. Detectives appeared in unexpected quarters in search of evidence of the violation of the tipling house law.

Clubs and restaurants were the scenes of the activities of the latest aggregation of law enforcement people. The Union League was the club they succeeded in getting into and there they found the bar closed and no drinks being served. At several other clubs they were denied admission by the doorkeepers. The sluths had an easier task in the restaurants. In scores of cafes in the loop districts the detectives secured evidence that drinks were dispensed on Sunday. Just what body of the forces that made good for the detectives represented is a mystery. They were dressed by the American Law and Order League and Daniel Cruise, an attorney who is conducting a more or less mysterious prosecution of the down town hotels for selling liquor on Sunday.

## THIS PREACHER PITIES SUCCESSOR OF ROOSEVELT

### "George Washington Could No More Fill Position of President Today Than That of Poet Laureate."

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—That neither George Washington nor Abraham Lincoln could now hold down the job Theodore Roosevelt fills was the opinion expressed by Rev. Dr. Robert S. MacArthur in Calvary Baptist church. Dr. MacArthur took as the topic of his talk the death of King Oscar of Sweden. He spoke of the influence he had exerted on the royal families of Europe, which was second only to that of Queen Victoria.

A similar influence for good had been exerted by President Roosevelt, he said, who had set a new high standard for the occupant of high places in the government of nations. The President had exalted his high office, he said, and set an example that would be hard to follow.

"I pity the man who will be his successor," said Dr. MacArthur. "It has become harder and harder to fill the position, and the standard of requirements has become higher and higher. George Washington could no more fill the position of President today than that of the poet laureate of England. Neither could President Lincoln. They were equal to the day in which they lived, but conditions have become harder and harder."

## FOR PRESEVATION OF PETERSBURG BATTLEFIELD

### Representative Lassiter Believes His Bill For an Appropriation Will Pass Congress.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 16.—Representative Lassiter said today that he believes that his resolution to make a survey and map of the lines of the Petersburg battlefield will pass, and that it will be a step in the direction of preserving the landmarks of that battlefield. The map is to show all lines, fortifications and roads which existed at the time of the investment headquarters and chief stations of the various corps of the two armies; the acreage and fee simple ownership of the land within and contiguous to the battlefield, and the roads to it from Petersburg and City Point.

## PITCHFORK STICKING INTO BOND ISSUE

### Senator Tillman Delivers Characteristic Speech in Senate on Financial Question

### WANTS THE HANDCUFFS TURNED ON

### Believes That Roosevelt Has Turned on Enough Light and That It is Now Time to Do Something—Questions Awarding of New Bonds—Can't Get Information.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 16.—A characteristic speech was today delivered in the Senate by Senator Tillman.

Mr. Tillman spoke on his resolution directing an investigation of the recent bond issues and clearing houses certificate, but he took occasion to comment on a good many matters concerning the financial affairs of the country.

"I must confess I have not studied finance very much from the books," began Mr. Tillman, apologetically, "my own labors in that direction, having been confined to my own experiences."

Mr. Tillman said he did not know whether the criticism of the chairman of the House Committee on banking and currency (Mr. Fowler) had caused the Secretary of the Treasury to halt in the issuance of bonds, but a change of plans seemed to have been made, and he had not been able to learn how much of the proposed bond issue had been put out. He expressed the opinion that the Secretary of the Treasury had violated the spirit of the law if he had not violated the law itself.

"If we are not in the midst of a panic we are in the midst of a chill produced by the danger of a panic," declared Mr. Tillman.

The Treasury, he said, "dumped" its money in Wall Street, and the country has praised the patriotism of J. Pierpont Morgan, "in aiding the country to get a grip on itself and not let everybody get crazy and precipitate further less and horrors on the country."

Speaking of a published interview with the President by Mayor Dahlgren of Omaha, in which the President is alleged to have said that if he was responsible for the panic he was glad of it, as it brought to view the rotten condition of the country's finances, he said, "I fear that Mr. Dahlgren is immediate danger of joining the Ananias club. Perhaps somebody will use the telephone and find out about that."

He said that he would not worry about the panic, but he found so many faults connecting the Treasury Department, even the Senate and House of Representatives, with Wall Street that he was obliged to recognize them especially as the farmer, the cotton planter and manufacturer were affected. He said he wanted to know "who struck Billy Patterson?" He spoke of the manner in which the financial stringency has operated.

Kind Word for Roosevelt.

"And," he added, "the President says he is proud of it. At least Dahlgren says the President says he is proud of it. I cannot believe he said it. He has said many things lacking discretion, but I do not believe he is so callous as to see any pleasure in the conditions of paralysis which confronts us. I believe he is a patriot, though he has perhaps shown it badly at times."

The Senator held aloft a banking houses certificate and in a loud voice called upon the Senate to look at it. "Here is a Sherman," he declared, "looks like what you call Confederate money—shin plaster—and yet they are issued by national banks. Look at it. I am going to have it engraved so it can be done without destroying it, and put it in the Congressional Record. But I don't propose to have it destroyed and lose a dollar just to have you enlightened on the currency."

He wanted only good greenbacks, and in rasping tones, speaking of the necessity of money he said: "You will have to go to the bone yard if you can't get it."

At between shipplasters in the form of clearing house certificates and greenbacks, he said he would prefer the greenbacks drawn on railroad and other stocks although they were in his opinion filled with water. He was daily in receipt of letters from people who think they know all about the currency and have schemes for currency reform. "But I don't even read them," he said, "it has been alleged, he said, 'that the bonds recently issued had not been sold to the highest bidders,' and he read a newspaper copy of a letter by Mr. Schramm, of New York, saying he had bid \$103 1/2 on \$50,000 of the

bonds, but had not received any of them, although they had been sold as low as \$102.

They Land Better Jobs.

"The finance committee," he said, "could find out whether that is true. The controllers of currency are so complacent and polite while they are in office that almost every one of them has graduated into the presidency of a bank."

"The President turns on the light; why don't he turn on the handcuffs when he finds somebody stealing? He goes to the country and makes speeches and destroys the confidence of the people, but we do not find him putting anybody in prison."

He referred to a resolution he had introduced in the Senate a year ago for an inquiry into the failure of the bank of which John H. Walsh, of Chicago, was president, and that a year and a half had gone by before a trial had begun. As Walsh was under trial, he said he would not comment further on that subject. He had on Saturday telegraphed the district attorney in New York asking about recent bank failures, but that he had replied he could not give out information regarding the investigation that is being made. "I repeat that this seems to be the policy of the Department of Justice and Treasury Department."

Mr. Tillman said he only intended to bring these matters before the committee on finance as questions for them to answer, and when they should answer them he said he would ask more questions.

## JAMES BLAND GIVEN SIX MONTHS

### Colored Youth Who Shot Southie Parker, Got Light Punishment.

In the Circuit Court yesterday, James Bland, colored, was given six months in the county jail and required to pay a fine of \$5 for putting two bullets into Southie Parker. The shooting took place at the race track in Riverview during a football game between two negro teams. Bland told the jury frankly that he shot to hurt Parker. As the result of the shooting Parker will lose the use of one of his arms.

Branch Davis, colored, pleaded guilty to an ordinary charge of assault and was assessed \$5 by Judge Blackstone.

Today the case of Benjamin Mellicott, under indictment for murder, will be taken up in the court.

## Licensed to Marry

License to marry has been issued in the clerk's office of the Corporation Court to Mr. C. D. Atkinson and Miss Maude Eugenia Rogers, both of this city.

## THE GOULDS BACK DOWN

### Withdraw Application for a Charter for Opening Wedge in Va.

### WILL RENEW IT WITH CHARGES

### Now Proposed Not to Construct Their Line From Richmond Further North

### Than Fredericksburg — Attorney General Anderson Will Answer.

(Special to The Daily Press.)

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 16.—Application for a charter for the Fredericksburg and Southern Railway, which is believed to be the opening wedge for a combination of roads to parallel the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, a one-third interest in which is owned by the State, north and south, and to give the Wabash, another Gould property a Southern outlet, was argued before the State Corporation Commission today.

The charter was finally withdrawn in order that an amendment might be made to the effect that it is not proposed to build the line north of Fredericksburg. Answers will later be filed by Attorney General Anderson, representing the interests of the State, and attorneys for the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac after which the Commission will take the matter under consideration.

If the charter is granted it is probable that the matter will be taken to the Supreme Court. It is stated in the charter of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac that the line shall not be paralleled.

Atlantic Hotel Sells for \$345,000

NORFOLK, VA., Dec. 16.—The Atlantic Hotel, of Norfolk, which was sold at public auction Saturday, was bought in by the Atlantic Holding Corporation for \$345,000.

Brisk bidding characterized the sale, which was conducted on the court house steps. The first offer, \$225,000, was quickly advanced by additional bids. In twenty minutes the matter was settled.

## EIGHTY LOST IN THIS ALABAMA MINE HORROR

### Yoland in Tuscaloosa County Near Birmingham, the Scene of the Accident

### WAS AN EXPLOSION OF COAL DUST

### State Mining Engineers Had Declared the Mine To Be Free From Fire Damp—List of Dead Would Have Been Larger On Any Other Day Than Monday.

(By Associated Press.)

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 16.—Between 80 and 90 men are buried in No. 1 mine of the Yoland Coal & Coke Company at Yoland, 35 miles from Birmingham in Tuscaloosa county, following an explosion today. Ninety men are checked in for work.

Within an hour after the explosion 14 men had crawled out of the mine all burned. Later reports from the scene are that the dead number 80. The explosion took place at 10:25, and was below the second level.

Eight men crawled out of the mine. Crowds of women and men quickly crowded around the mine entrance and were cheered by the news that all the men continued to work.

The Yoland mines are operated by the Yoland Coal & Coke Company, of which Dr. G. B. Crowe is president.

The mines are located 35 miles south of Birmingham. The cause of the explosion is unknown. Less than 100 men went to work this morning and this accounts for the fact that the loss of life was not heavier. The mine has in the past been pronounced free from gas by the state mine inspectors, and it is supposed that the explosion was caused by dust.

Explosion Was Terrific.

The explosion was below the second right sub-entry. The mines go down something like fifteen hundred feet. There was a terrific explosion the force was seen outside, dust and timber being blown out in great quantities, destroying small buildings nearby and also landing on the depot, some little distance away.

There was a terrific heat immediately after the explosion. Officials of the company were on the scene immediately and took steps to start a rescue party to get to the men on the inside. The fans were started up and other methods taken to eliminate the bad air. Within an hour 14 men had crawled from the mine.

Yoland mine is but a few miles from Virginia City, where a similar explosion occurred about two years ago, 11 being killed at that time.

Yoland is 20 miles south of Birmingham on the Birmingham Mineral railroad.

The Yoland Coal & Coke Company is headed by Dr. G. G. Crowe of Birmingham.

Between 105 and 120 are given work in mine No. 1.

Being Monday morning the full compliment of men did not go into the mine. The Yoland mines are among the model collieries of the Birmingham district. Non-union men were at work exclusively, but everything possible had been done to insure the contentment of the employees.

## SHIPYARD GETS VERDICT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

### Uncle Sam Must Pay Nearly \$5,000 For Change in Contract Requirements as to Cruiser's Trial.

In the United States District Court at Norfolk yesterday Judge Waddill gave the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company judgement for \$4,999.54 against the United States government.

The shipyard sued to recover the amount of additional expenditure imposed when the Navy Department required the company to test the projected cruiser Charleston by the standardization method instead of by the old stake-course plan. The contract called for a speed test according to the old style.

Senator Mallory Not To Return.

(By Associated Press.)

PENSACOLA, FLA., Dec. 16.—United States Senator Stephen R. Mallory today announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election. He is seriously ill at his home here and realizes that he must retire from public life to regain his health.